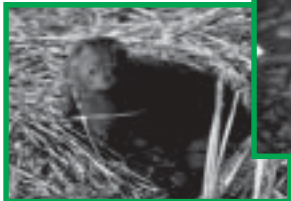




2002-2003 Idaho Trapping Season



Dear Idaho Trapper,

On behalf of the staff here at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, I'd like to welcome you to the new Idaho 2002-2003 Trapping Season Brochure. In an effort to better serve the different publics and interests here in Idaho, we decided to publish the trapping brochure separate from upland game birds, falconry, and associated small game species. Seasons for hunting badger, bobcat, raccoon, and red fox are still found in the upland game brochure. We also reduced the size of the trapping brochure so it will conveniently fit inside a shirt pocket. We would appreciate your feedback regarding these changes.

We are fortunate in that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Department continue their unwavering support for regulated trapping as one of the tools in managing Idaho's diverse wildlife resources. In turn, those of us who trap must also do our part by being sensitive to a growing number of urban dwellers who, through exposure to a media that often labels trapping as something cruel, don't understand how trapping can be both a rewarding sport and a beneficial management tool to boot. Consequently, while trapping, we need to show our respect for the animals we pursue and conduct our trapping activity in a manner that does not foster the perception that trapping is a cruel and unacceptable sport. The actions of just a few can do irreparable damage to all of us who care about the trapping tradition. And we must be willing to police our ranks if we hope to maintain a positive image. Thanks to the leadership, the Idaho Trappers' Association and our Department enjoy a positive working relationship built on years of trust. While we don't always agree on issues, we can at least agree to disagree. It is important that this working relationship continues; Idaho's furbearers are the ultimate beneficiaries.

I hope you have a safe and rewarding year on the trapline. Enjoy the anticipation, the uncertainty, the excitement, and the rewards. Make an effort to take someone along on the trapline that has doubts about the sport and make a convert of them. And if you really want to do something for the future of trapping, take a youngster along. It happened to me growing up in the wilds of northern Wisconsin. The reward will be immeasurable.

Wayne E. Melquist
State Furbearer Program Coordinator

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2002-2003 Fees

Resident

Trapping (expires June 30)	\$26.50
Juvenile (through 17 years)	\$6.50
Taxidermist/Fur Buyer (expires June 30)	\$36.50

Nonresident

Trapping (expires June 30)	\$251.50
Taxidermist/Fur Buyer (expires June 30) ..	\$126.50

** Only residents from those states with reciprocal trapping agreements can purchase a nonresident trapping license.*



Internet sales: If you are interested in purchasing licenses or tags over the Internet, see "What's New" on the IDFG website at **www2.state.id.us/fishgame**

TO RECEIVE NONRESIDENT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-635-7820. *If you purchase a nonresident license this year, you will automatically receive an application form for the following year. Applications will be mailed in November.*

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Proof of residency is required before issuance of any resident license. A resident is defined as any person who has been domiciled in the state of Idaho, with a bona fide intent to make this his/her place of permanent abode, for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of application for any license, tag or permit. ***Domicile*** means the place where an individual has his/her true, fixed, permanent home to which he/she has the intention of returning whenever he/she is absent.

A driver must produce his/her Idaho driver's license as proof of residency; or a nondriver must produce suitable proof of residency, such as an Idaho Identification Card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, documents bearing his/her name and address (not issued by himself/ herself) such as: in the case of a child under 18, identification from a parent; **OR by producing three of the following:** rent receipts or mortgage statements for the previous six months, home utility bills for the previous six months, notarized statement from an employer on business letterhead, or proof of voter registration dated six months prior. ***A previous year's hunting license is not proof of residency. Ownership of property or paying of taxes within the state of Idaho is NOT a qualification for residency.*** No one can claim Idaho resident privileges while claiming resident privileges in another state (except military personnel).

A member of the military service of the U. S. or of a foreign country, together with spouse and children under 18 years of age, residing in his/her household, who have been officially transferred, stationed, domiciled, and on active duty in the state of Idaho for a period of 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such assignment continues, to purchase a resident license. A member of the Idaho National or Air National Guard, domiciled in Idaho for 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such residency continues, to purchase a resident license.

Idaho residents who are in the U.S. military service, and maintain Idaho as their official state of residence as shown on their current leave and earnings statement, together with spouse and children (under 18 years of age) residing in his/her household shall be eligible to purchase a resident license. The service person himself/herself is eligible to buy a furlough license from any vendor while on leave. Other permits and validations must be attached as required.

Ethics and Responsibility

Many people view trapping and the use of fur as controversial issues. Much of this controversy stems from misinformation and misunderstandings from both sides. As trappers we know that our sport is a legitimate use of a natural renewable resource, but it is often difficult to express this in terms that nontrappers can appreciate.

Demonstrating ethics and responsibility while trapping sends many positive messages that nontrappers understand and appreciate more than any explanation. These ethics relay the message that we are proud to be trappers, we care about our sport, and we care about the resource we're using.

Key ingredients for trappers who care about their sport:

■ **Maintain Good Landowner Relations**

Obtaining permission to trap is more than the law; it's an opportunity to earn respect by respecting landowners and their property. Practice common sense and courtesy by leaving gates the way you found them, walking or using a four-wheeler when fields and field roads are too wet to drive, and avoiding sets that might result in non-target catches.

■ **Respect Other Outdoor Enthusiasts**

Autumn and winter are popular times for many outdoor activities like hunting, hiking, bird watching, and cross-country skiing. Taking the time to find out which activities are likely to take place in an area you're trapping is the first step in avoiding any misunderstandings between you, the landowner, and others sharing the property. Most activities are compatible with trapping and don't require further thought. If an area receives a lot of hunting pressure, you can time your use of a property to avoid peak times that hunters tend to choose, like opening weekends and holidays.

■ **Keep Familiar With Improvements in Trapping Equipment and Techniques**

Improving efficiency, selectivity, and humaneness isn't a new idea for the trapping industry. However, research and development are occurring at a faster pace today and require more effort to keep abreast of state-of-the-art developments in equipment and methods.

■ **Appreciate Perceptions of Nontrappers**

Differences in backgrounds, cultures, and experiences can cause misinterpretation of your words, deeds, and actions. Keep this in mind when communicating with nontrappers. Most people know very little about trapping. Make an effort to communicate on their level. Above all, remember that high standards of ethics and responsibility form a message that can't be mistaken.

■ **Respect the Resource**

Ethical trappers respect the resource they use. Part of this involves making the most of your catch, such as looking for secondary markets for carcasses, castoreum and other by-products. Use by-products for baits and lures when possible. If not, dispose of carcasses properly.

Wildlife laws are designed to conserve our fur resources while allowing for responsible harvest. Become familiar with and obey all regulations. Report violations to the conservation officers. Violators are stealing from trappers and nontrappers alike, and giving the sport a bad name.

Be proud to be a trapper and a good representative for others who enjoy the sport.



Some Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Humaneness

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use “stop-loss” traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion when setting body-gripping traps.
- Use time to your advantage – don’t set more traps than you can handle.

Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are a set of recommendations about how to improve an activity – in this case trapping – developed by using sound scientific research and consideration of regional, social, and economic factors. **The implementation of BMPs for trapping is voluntary and will ensure the continued responsible management of furbearers in the United States.**

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Fur Resources Committee is responsible for this project. Professional furbearer biologists, state wildlife agencies, and trappers are developing the BMPs. BMPs will be available to the state agencies and trappers for incorporation into trapper education and furbearer management programs.

- BMPs will be based on regional differences in trapping conditions (e.g., climate, species trapped, and habitat) because these conditions differ throughout the nation.
- BMPs will be developed for specific trapping conditions (e.g., land vs. water) in a given region.
- BMPs will recognize the fact that a given trap may be set to catch several target species.
- BMPs will include descriptions of the best traps and recommendations for setting traps.

Three Key Messages to Use When Educating the Public About Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

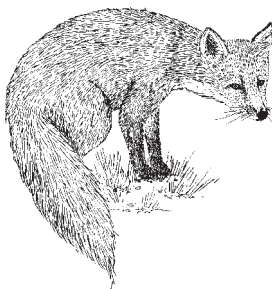
- Furbearing animals are an abundant, renewable resource. Some people have the notion that furbearing animals are rare or endangered. We need to reassure them that legally trapped animals are numerous and their populations secure.

- Trapping is controlled through strict regulations that are enforced by conservation officers.

People may fear that trapping is a “free-for-all,” with no sort of control or regulation. To overcome this fear, we must reinforce the message that trapping is a highly regulated activity in Idaho and nationwide.

- Trapping provides a wide range of benefits to society.

People often ask, “Is trapping really necessary?” We need to tell them about the wildlife management, economic (to the trapper and for damage control), and lifestyle benefits of trapping.



Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of furbearers. The official rules are available from the Division of Statewide Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries.

IDFG adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

FURBEARERS GENERAL INFORMATION

It Is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper's license.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of any game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait or scent in trapping furbearing animals, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt wildlife, except raccoon, by the aid of a spotlight, flashlight, or artificial light of any kind. Hunting of unprotected or predatory animals with artificial light is allowed when hunting on private property with written permission of the landowner or on public lands with a permit authorized by IDFG.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

Resident or Nonresident Trapping License: A valid trapping license is required to trap furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife. A nonresident trapping license may be obtained by a person who is not a resident of the state of Idaho, providing the state of residence of said person grants similar trapping license privileges to nonresidents.

Hunting License: A valid hunting license is required to hunt any predatory or unprotected wildlife, or furbearers for which hunting is allowed (badger, bobcat, raccoon and red fox).



DEFINITIONS

Drainage is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

“Trapping” shall mean taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls or other devices.

Furbearing animals are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), raccoon, and badger.

Predatory wildlife is defined as the following species: coyote, jackrabbit, skunk and weasel.

Special classifications for some animals extend extra protection to those species. These animals cannot be hunted, taken or possessed.

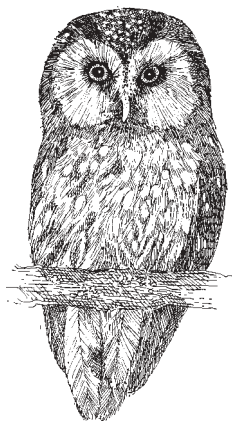
Threatened or endangered mammals include the following species: Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Northern Idaho ground squirrel, whooping crane, and bald eagle.

Protected nongame wildlife is defined as the following species: bison (buffalo), red (pine) squirrels, wolverines, chipmunks, golden-mantled ground squirrels, pikas, kit foxes, northern flying squirrels, and migratory song birds. All hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures are protected.

All nongame birds in Idaho are protected EXCEPT starlings, English sparrows, and feral pigeons. Protected nongame birds cannot be hunted, taken or possessed (including parts of birds,

even if found dead). Game birds maybe taken only in accordance with established hunting rules.

Unprotected wildlife is defined as all animals OTHER than those classified by the Fish and Game Commission as big game animals, upland game animals, game birds, game fish, crustacea, migratory birds, furbearing animals, threatened or endangered wildlife, protected nongame wildlife, or predatory wildlife.



IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOR TRAPS

All traps or snares, except those used for pocket gophers, ground squirrels or other unprotected rodents, shall have attached to the snare or the chain of every trap, a metal tag bearing in legible English the name and current address of the trapper; or a six-digit number assigned by IDFG. Any person wishing to mark his or her traps and/or snares with a six-digit number must make application to IDFG at a regional office, the McCall office, or the headquarters office. Any person who has been assigned a six-digit number to mark his or her traps and/or snares must notify IDFG in writing at the McCall office, a regional office, or the headquarters office within 30 days of any change in address.

CONTROLLED TRAPPING PERMITS

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit in possession for that controlled trapping unit.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated and may NOT be used. IDFG will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit.

Eligibility: Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

Applications: Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all IDFG offices and must be received at the headquarters office of IDFG, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked not later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing: Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.

If an insufficient number of first choice applications is received for a unit, remaining permits will be filled from applications listing the unit as a second choice.

Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Successful Applicants: Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

Revocation of Permits: Any permittee who does not comply with trapping laws, rules, proclamations, or the instructions for the trapping unit will have his or her permit revoked.

Alternate Permittee: Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with the “Successful Applicants” section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.



MANDATORY FURTAKER HARVEST REPORT

All trappers are required to fill out the mandatory furtaker harvest report form provided by IDFG. The completed mandatory report must be returned to IDFG, Bureau of Wildlife, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Any trapper failing to send in a report by July 31 shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year. (It would be helpful to IDFG personnel to receive the report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This will assist us in getting the departmental progress reports done in a timely manner.)

All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the office from which they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

TRAPS

Checking Traps: No person shall place snares or traps for furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife, EXCEPT pocket gophers, most species of ground squirrels, and other unprotected rodents, without visiting every trap or snare once every 72 hours and removing any catch therein.

Trappers acting under authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services are exempt from this rule.

Removing Trapped Animals of Another: No person shall remove wildlife from the trap or snare of another EXCEPT licensed trappers with written permission from the owner.

Release of Non-Target Catches: All non-target species caught alive shall be released immediately. **NON-TARGET SPECIES ARE DEFINED AS ANY SPECIES CAUGHT FOR WHICH THE SEASON IS CLOSED.** If difficulty is encountered releasing a trapped fisher, wolverine, lynx, or mountain lion, please contact IDFG immediately for assistance.

Any trapper who catches a non-target species that is dead shall:

- Report the catch on the mandatory furtaker harvest report form.
- Remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession.
- Notify IDFG through the local conservation officer, a regional office, or the McCall office within 72 hours to make arrangements to transfer the animal to IDFG.
- IDFG will reimburse trappers \$5.00 for each lynx, wolverine, or fisher caught accidentally and turned in. A \$5.00 reward will also be paid for otters accidentally taken after the regional quota has been met.

METHODS OF TAKE

Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

Trapping: No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

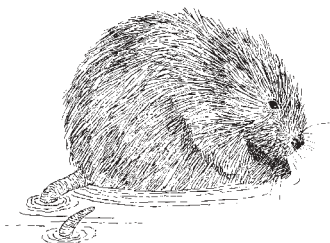
- Use for bait or scent, any part of any game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use any dry land set within thirty (30) feet of any visible bait EXCEPT bleached bones of furbearers, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.

Hunting: In addition to predatory or unprotected wildlife, the following furbearers may be hunted: badger, bobcat, raccoon, and red fox. See upland game brochure for methods of take and use of hunting dogs. See the big game brochure under mountain lion and black bear for normal hunting permits.

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):

All state game preserves and IDFG Wildlife Management Areas are open to the taking of furbearing animals by licensed trappers during the open season declared for the areas in which they lie.

Trappers who are trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office: Billingsley Creek, Boise River, Andrus, Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh, Carey Lake, Cartier Slough, C.J. Strike, Coeur d'Alene River, Craig Mountain, Fort Boise, Hagerman, Market Lake, McArthur Lake, Montpelier, Mud Lake, Niagara Springs, Payette, Portneuf, Sand Creek, Snow Peak, Sterling, and Tex Creek.



BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER MANDATORY CHECK AND REPORT

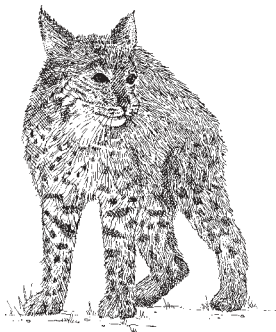
Any person trapping river otter, or taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping, must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

Presenting the pelts of all bobcat and river otter taken to a regional office, the McCall office, or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report. To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented to a regional office, the McCall office, or designated checkpoint of IDFG during normal working hours — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See pages 30 and 31 for river otter harvest quotas and additional reporting requirements.

A fee of \$2.00 will be charged for each bobcat pelt tag. An additional \$1.50 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when either bobcat or otter pelts are brought in for tagging.

No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export tag).

No person shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat or otter pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached.



CLOSED AREAS

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument in Blaine and Butte counties.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
- That portion of Ada County:
 - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
 - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
 - The area between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue and the Boise City limits.
- Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of state game preserves, state wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, EXCEPT as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

COMMON SEASON BOUNDARIES

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.



Regional Season Information



**Closed
Statewide:**
There is no open
season for fisher,
kit fox, lynx,
wolverine, or wolf.

PANHANDLE REGION:

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties

Badger *	July 1–June 30
Beaver	Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	Oct 15–Jan 31
Marten	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	July 1–June 30

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Clearwater Region:

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties

Badger *	..... July 1–June 30
Beaver	..... Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	..... Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	..... Oct 15–Jan 31
Marten	..... Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	..... Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	..... Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	..... Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	..... July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Clearwater County: East Fork Potlatch River drainage; CLOSED

Idaho County: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Chamberlin Cr., mainstem of Middle Fk. Clearwater R. from Maggie Cr. upstream, mainstem of Lochsa R., Secesh R. above the Long Gulch Bridge, and mainstem of Selway R.: CLOSED.

Latah County: CLOSED

Nez Perce County: All northern tributaries to the Salmon R. downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake R. below the mouth of the Salmon R. excluding the Clearwater River drainage: CLOSED

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Mainstem of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Snake R., from Lewiston upstream to Hells Canyon Dam, and the mainstem of the main Salmon R.: CLOSED

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Southwest Region:

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1–June 30
Beaver	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1–June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	.....	Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Ada & Boise Counties: The Boise River WMA; CLOSED.

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), and Wood Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND EXCEPT all lands within the Boise River WMA; CLOSED

Gem County: Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge; CLOSED.

Valley County: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Johnson Cr. upstream from Landmark, S. Fk. Salmon R. upstream from the fish trap near the mouth of Cabin Cr., Bear Valley Cr., and Sulphur Cr.; CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

*** Indicates species can also be hunted.**

EXCEPTIONS: FOX

Adams County: Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage;
CLOSED

Valley County: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Horseshoe Bend, confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to the confluence with the North Fork Payette R. at Banks, and Boise R. from Lucky Peak Dam to Caldwell: CLOSED

Magic Valley Region:

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1-June 30
Beaver	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14-Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1-June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1-Jan 31
Mink	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Muskrat	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Otter ^	.....	Nov 15-March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1-June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Blaine County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood R., Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); and all lands within the following drainages: Little Fish Cr., Hailey Cr., Sheep Cr., and Cold Spring Cr. (trib. to Little Wood R.); CLOSED

Camas County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Lime C., Little Smoky Cr., and Willow Cr.: CLOSED

Gooding County: All public lands within the following drainages: Black Canyon Cr., Clover Cr., and Thorn Cr.: CLOSED

Lincoln County: All public lands in Preacher Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: MINK

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, Jan 15-Feb 28.

EXCEPTIONS: MUSKRAT

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, Jan 15 – Feb 28.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Southeast Region:

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power Counties

Badger *	..... July 1–June 30
Beaver	..... Oct 22–April 15
Bobcat *	..... Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	..... July 1–June 30
Marten	..... Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	..... Oct 22–April 15
Muskrat	..... Oct 22–April 15
Otter ^	..... Nov 1–March 15
Raccoon *	..... July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Bannock County: Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Cottonwood Cr. drainage, Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr.: CLOSED

Bear Lake County: Pearl Cr. drainage: CLOSED

Bingham County: Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr.: CLOSED

Caribou County: Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage: CLOSED

Franklin County: Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: MARTEN

Bear Lake & Franklin Counties: CLOSED

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs.: CLOSED

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Upper Snake Region:

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison & Teton Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1–June 30
Beaver	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1–June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Muskrat	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Otter ^	.....	Nov 1–March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Clark County: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr. upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary, Indian Creek drainage on USFWS and BLM land: CLOSED

Teton County: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Packsaddle Creek, and Trail Creek above the Mike Harris Bridge: CLOSED

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to St. Anthony: CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Salmon Region:

Custer & Lemhi Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1–June 30
Beaver	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1–June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Muskrat	.....	Oct 22–April 15
Otter ^	.....	Nov 1–March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Custer Co: Marsh Cr. drainage: CLOSED

Lemhi Co: Dahlenega Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

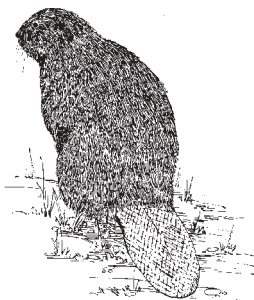
Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, Id.: CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 31 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

CONTROLLED BEAVER TRAPPING UNITS

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>No. of Animals</u>
201	Nov 1 – Mar 31 That portion of the East Fork Potlatch River drainage in Latah and Clearwater counties.	10
202	Nov 1 – Mar 31 That portion of the Palouse River drainage in Latah County upstream from Laird Park Dam.	10
203	Oct 22 – Apr 15 That portion of the Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County that is on National Forest lands.	10
204	Oct 22 – Apr 15 Pebble Creek Unit in Caribou County. Pebble Creek drainage.	10



DOG TRAINING SEASONS

Bobcat may NOT be killed during dog training seasons, which open after the close of the bobcat take season and run concurrently with mountain lion take or dog training seasons in game management units which are open to mountain lion take or dog training seasons. (See current big game seasons brochure.)



RIVER OTTER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Pelts must be tagged by IDFG personnel at the regional office in the region in which the animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office. Pelts not registered or presented to IDFG personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.
- Trappers must surrender the entire river otter carcass for analysis. Check with the IDFG regional office for further information when reporting a harvest. Data from the carcasses will be used in our efforts to obtain approval for CITES pelt tags.
- No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 72 hours after the close of the season, any raw otter pelt legally harvested in Idaho which does not have an official state export tag attached.

Season Limits:

- A maximum limit of 2 otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the quota is not exceeded.

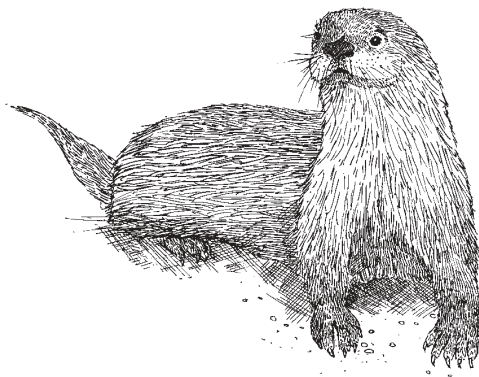
Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 48 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 48-hour period provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached. Any otters trapped and brought in 48 hours after the regional quota is met must be surrendered to the Department for a \$5.00 reward.

- Current otter harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate IDFG regional office during normal business hours or by calling **1-800-323-4334** 24 hours a day. The otter season will close statewide no later than March 15.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified for the purpose of reducing potential conflicts between trappers and other user groups.

RIVER OTTER TRAPPING QUOTAS

<u>REGION</u>	<u>HARVEST QUOTA</u>
Panhandle	15
Clearwater	15
Southwest	30
Magic Valley	20
Southeast	2
Upper Snake	10
Salmon	10
STATEWIDE TOTAL	102



TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS

Be sure of what you trap or shoot.

The take and possession of lynx are prohibited, therefore every effort should be taken to minimize the potential for a lynx to be incidentally trapped, and to increase the likelihood that an incidentally trapped lynx can be released uninjured by ensuring:

(1) Traps are checked at a frequency such that injury to an incidentally trapped lynx is minimized; thereby increasing the opportunity to release the animal unharmed or increase the potential for successful rehabilitation.

(2) The use of trap types and/or sets that provide the greatest potential for lynx to be released uninjured.

All uninjured lynx trapped or treed in a chase hunt must be released immediately on site.

Because bobcats and lynx are very similar in many ways (see page 36 and the back inside cover for comparisons), trappers should know how to identify each species and its habitat, how to avoid catching lynx, and what to do if a lynx is caught incidentally.

Habitat

Bobcats seem to prefer areas with high prey abundance and dense understory vegetation or with rocky ledges and outcrops. They often frequent forest edges and areas with dense undergrowth. Bobcats thrive in a variety of habitats including mature forests, mixed stands of hardwood and conifers, brushy habitats, deserts, and farmland habitats.

Generally, lynx will be where snowshoe hares are, primarily in forested areas with ample understory vegetation. Mature forests often provide suitable habitat, but forests that are growing back after fire or logging often provide excellent food and cover for hares, attracting lynx.

Trapping Methods for Capturing Bobcats While Avoiding Lynx

While bobcats and lynx are similar in size and habits, the two species depend upon different prey species so they commonly use different habitat types that provide hunting opportunities for either cottontail rabbits or snowshoe hares.

To select for bobcats, trap sets should be made near rocks, ridges, and trees in semi-open country where cottontail rabbits abound. Excellent locations to trap foxes, coyotes, and bobcats are also found along the edges and corners of open meadows, pastures, and abandoned or overgrown fields. Lynx rarely use these areas, as they prefer to hunt and stay in thick cover of brush and evergreen timber stands. Lynx generally stick to cover even when traveling long distances.

Trap set constructions that are effective for bobcats also appeal to lynx. Lures and baits that appeal to one species also appeal to the other. To avoid lynx do not use rabbit parts as bait. The use of tainted meat rather than fresh meat baits will also help in avoiding lynx. Keeping the baits lightly covered will intrigue canines yet reduce feline captures. Selecting trap locations where bobcat tracks are noted is best because bobcats are habitual in their travels and are apt to return to the same vicinity. If lynx tracks are noted, it is best to not make a bobcat set.

Incidental captures of lynx can be reduced by using a proper sized foothold trap. Number 2 coil spring or number 1.75 coil spring traps discriminate against lynx captures due to a relatively small trap jaw spread; yet this size trap maintains excellent efficiency for smaller footed coyotes, foxes, and bobcats.

Another alternative foothold trap to consider where lynx may be present is the padded jaw version of a coil spring number three trap. These types of restraining traps minimize or eliminate injury to lynx when they are placed so that the

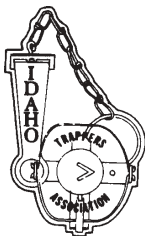
trapped animal cannot entangle the trap chain around any tree or other solid object.

All trappers should carry catchpoles to allow safe release of any unintended animal captures. Care should be taken to approach any trapped animals slowly to avoid excessive movements of the animal. A trapped lynx will allow the snare loop to be placed over its head, but it will likely react when the catch loop is tightened. Do not attempt to choke a lynx with the catchpole loop but rather force the animal to lie on its side so the trap may be removed. Then the snare loop should be relaxed and removed to allow the lynx freedom to escape.

Please notify the nearest IDFG office to report any lynx sightings or captures.

Bobcat and lynx information provided by Howard Golden (Alaska Fish and Game) and Tom Krause (National Trappers Associations), 2002.

The content of this brochure was prepared by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Department would like to thank the Idaho Trappers Association and the Upper Snake River Trappers of Idaho for contributing to the printing costs.

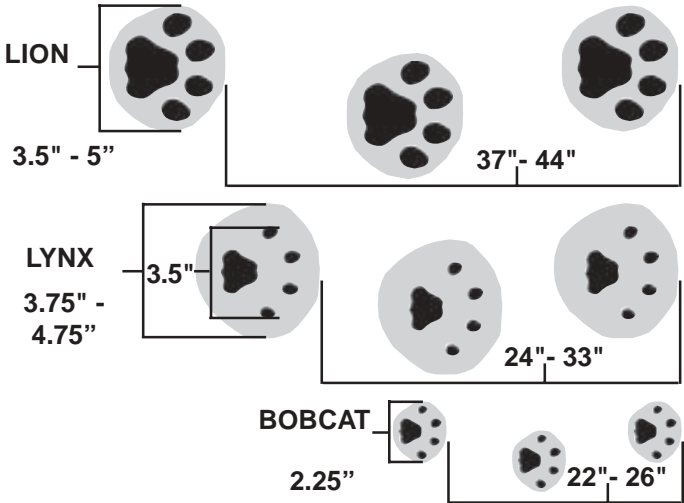


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Tracks in Snow and Stride Length Comparison for Mountain Lion, Lynx, and Bobcat



- Mountain lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat foot is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length differences between species.

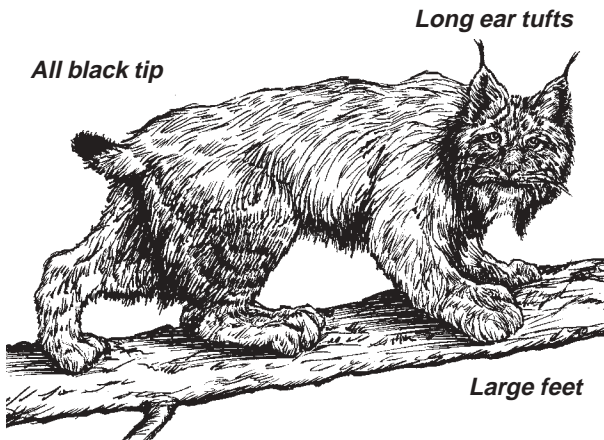
Track data - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1999



Identifying Lynx and Bobcats

The lynx is a threatened species which may be mistaken for a bobcat. The following comparisons are provided to help you distinguish between the two species.

LYNX



- Tail:**
1. Has black tip which completely encircles the end.
 2. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.
- Color:** Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.
- Face:**
1. Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5" long.
 2. Cheek tufts prominent.
- Feet:** Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.
- Size:** Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 lbs.). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.

Identifying Lynx and Bobcats

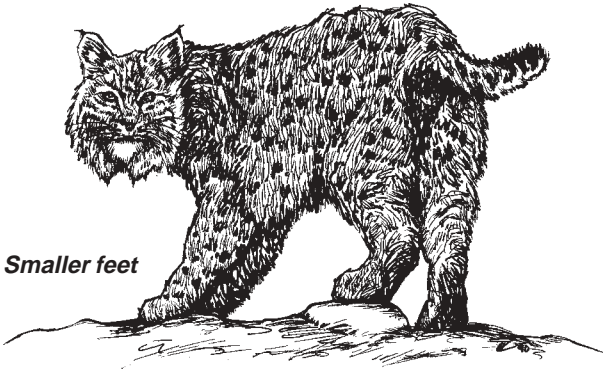
BOBCAT

Short ear tufts

*Barred, tip black
on top,*

*white
under-
neath*

Smaller feet



- Tail:**
1. Underside of tail is white to the tip.
 2. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.
- Color:** Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body - usually distinct black spots on belly.
- Face:**
1. Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long.
 2. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.
- Feet:** Appear small, lack hair development between pads - bare like those of domestic cat.
- Size:** Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 lbs.).

Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.